

Message Text

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ACTION ORM-02

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 SCA-01 L-03 SS-15

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R 211841Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1939

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT AU PRINCE 1029

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

EO 11652 GDS

TAGS: SREF, HA

SUBJECT: PLAN TO REQUEST UNCHR TO PROVIDE ADVISORY OPINIONS TO THE
DEPARTMENT ON REQUESTS FOR ASYLUM IN U.S. BY HAITIAN
NATIONALS

REF: STATE 092714

1. IN OUR JUDGMENT, GOH WOULD PROBABLY NOT REACT ADVERSELY TO PROPOSED PROCEDURE, PROVIDED IT WERE PRESENTED TO THEM AS A FURTHER STEP TOWARD ACHIEVING THE IMPROVED IMAGE WHICH GOH SEEKS IN INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY. GOH MIGHT, IN FACT, TAKE POSITIVE REASSURANCE FROM PROCEDURE, PROVIDED IT HAD REASON TO BELIEVE THAT UNHCR WOULD DERIVE ITS OPINIONS FROM AN OBJECTIVE DATA BASE ON PRESENT-DAY POLITICAL CONDITIONS IN HAITI (I.E., THAT UNHCR STAFF WOULD NOT BUILD ITS BASIC INFORMATION ON HAITI EXCLUSIVELY FROM HAITIAN EXILE SOURCES).

2. ONE QUESTION WHICH MIGHT ARISE IS WHETHER CONSULTATION WITH UNHCR WOULD AUTOMATICALLY PUT EACH CASE IN PUBLIC DOMAIN. WOULD CONSULTATION WITH UNHCR MATERIALLY INCREASE THE PROBABILITY OF WORLD-WIDE PUBLICITY FOR CASES IN WHICH ASYLUM WOULD PROBABLY BE GRANTED?

3. IN EMBASSY'S VIEW, PROPOSED PROCEDURE WOULD SERVE
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US INTERESTS WELL BY REDUCING PURELY BILATERAL NATURE

OF CONTENTION AFTER DECISIONS WHICH GOH MIGHT FIND
OBJECTIONABLE. SHARING DELIBERATIONS WITH COMPETENT UN
AGENCY WOULD REMOVE USG FROM ROLE AS SOLE ARBITER, IN
THE "BIG STICK" TRADITION. SIMILAR REASONING SHOULD ALSO
APPEAL TO GOH FOR DEFENDING ITSELF AGAINST VARIOUS FORMS
OF CRITICISM RELATED TO REFUGEES, BOTH ON THE GENERAL
PROBLEM AND ON THE OUTCOME OF SPECIFIC CASES.
ISHAM

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Disposition Authority: saccheem
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